

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-01 AID-05 IO-10 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 6845

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - U.S.-MIDEAST DIPLOMACY

1. SUMMARY. WITH FUTHER DECREASE IN DOMESTIC TENSIONS,
BEIRUT PAPERS AND MAGAZINES APPEARING MAY 30 TURN AGAIN
TO MIDEAST CRISIS. LEADING INDEPENDENT WEEKLY "AL-HAWADITH"
DETAILS "THOUGHTS

THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENT WILL CARRY WITH
HIM TO SALZBURG" ON SINAI, GOLIN, AND JORDAN, AS REPORTED
BY "SENIOR ARAB POLITICIAN AND DIPLOMAT" JUST BACK
FROM WASHINGTON. PRO-SOVIET DAILY "ASH-SHA'B", LEADING
INDEPENDENT DAILY "AN-NAHAR", AND INDEPENDENT "DAILY STAR"
ALL EXPRESS PESSIMISM ON POSSIBLE RESULTS OF SALZBURG
SUMMIT FOLLOWING SENATORIAL LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.
PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" EXAMINES KING KHALID'S STATEMENTS
ON ISRAEL AS REPORTED IN WASHINGTON POST. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN ARTICLE

HEADLINED "THESE ARE THOUGHTS THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENT WILL CARRY WITH HIM TO SALZBURG", CHIEF EDITOR NABIL KHURI OF LEADING INDEPENDENT WEEKLY "AL-HAWADITH" QUOTES "SENIOR ARAB POLITICIAN AND DIPLOMAT WHO AS IN WASHINGTON THIS MONTH AND MET WITH LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICIALS" (INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, STATE DEPARTMENT EXPERTS, AND VICE-PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER) AS REPORTING THAT "ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT THOUGHTS AMERICANS ARE NOW DEBATING IS THAT OF MAKING TWO BASIC AMENDMENTS IN RESOLUTION 242. BRIEFLY, THESE ARE: (A) EMPHASIS ON WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES -- AS STATED IN ORIGINAL TEXT -- WITH SLIGHT CHANGES IN THE BORDERS; (B) ADDITION OF CLEAR TEXT ON RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO NATIONAL HOME AND SELF-DETERMINATION, BUT WITHOUT USE OF TERM 'PALESTINIAN STATE' AND WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PLO." ARTICLE GOES ON TO GIVE DETAILS OF REPORTED U.S. THINKING ON SINAI, GOLAN, AND JORDAN. ON JORDAN, IT NOTES: "AMERICAOS SAY THEY DO NOT WISH TO BECOME PARTY BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND PALESTINIANS. THEY 'HOPE' PALESTINIANS AND KING HUSSEIN CAN REACH AGREEMENT, BUT AT SAME TIME THEY KNOW THIS HOPE WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE AND THAT ONE OF TWO PARTIES WILL SOONER OR LATER WIN OVER THE OTHER. WHAT IS MOST LIKELY IN THEIR VIEW IS THAT PALESTINIAN SIDE WILL WIN. THUS THEY SAY THAT JORDAN'S PROBLEM IS WITH PALESTINIANS, NOT WITH U.S. OR ISRAEL. 'WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO ROOM FOR TWO STATES NEXT TO ISRAEL. THERE MUST BE ONE STATE, NOT TWO'."

3. MUHAMMAD MAQQASH, COLUMNIST OF PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B", WRITES: "ONE MAY CONCLUDE FROM AMERICAN SIGNALS ON EVE OF SALZBURG SUMMIT THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL AVOID ANSWERING SADAT'S QUESTION, 'IS U.S. COMMITTED TO PROTECTED ISRAEL WITHIN ITS BORDERS OR TO DEFENDING ITS EXPANSION AS WELL?'. MOST PROBABLY, AMERICAN PRESIDENT WILL SAY THAT IN LANGUAGE OF DIPLOMACY THERE IS NO STRAIGHT 'YES' OR 'NO' ... AND WILL AVOID ANSER BY ASKING ARAB PRESIDENT QUESTION LIKE 'ARE ARABS PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL WITHIN ITS BORDERS...?' SOME AMERICAN PAPERS CONSIDER SENATORS' LETTER TO PRESIDENT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME AS CAUSE OF GREATER ISRAELI UNCLASSIFIED

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INTRANSIGENCE. WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED OF SALZBURG SUMMIT IF THESE ARE ITS PORTENTS?"

4. FU'AD MATAR, EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS EXPERT OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", WRITES: "PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATEMENTS TO LA TIMES REFLECT HIS ANNOYANCE WITH SENATORS' LETTER.... DECLARED ATTITUDES OF PARTIES TO CRISIS, INCLUDING ATTITUDE OF 76 AMERICAN SENATORS WHOM PRESIDENT

SADAT CRITICIZED, LEAD ONE TO BELIEVE THAT SALZBURG SUMMIT MEETING WILL PRODUCE NO POSITIVE RESULTS ON ROAD TO SETTLEMENT OF MIDEAST CRISIS.... AFTER THAT, WHAT WILL HAPPEN? SITUATION WILL PROBABLY REMAIN AS IT IS UNTIL ANOTHER ROUND OF FIGHTING ALTERS IT."

5. INDEPENDENT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR" WRITES: "GIVEN EACH MAN'S POSITION IN CONFLICT, TWO MEN FLY TO AUSTRIA WITH COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS. WHEREAS PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SECURED ENOUGH ARAB BACKING THROUGH HIS RECENT TOURS TO JUSTIFY CLAIM TO REPRESENTATION OF ALL ARABS, PRESIDENT FORD IS HAMSTRUNG BY RECENT LETTER OF 76 SENATORS SUPPORTING ISRAEL."

6. COLUMNIST FAYSAL HURANI, COMMENTING ON KING KHALED'S STATEMENT ON ISRAEL TO WASHINGTON POST, WRITES IN PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR". "STATEMENT CALLS FORTH TWO OBSERVATIONS. FIRST, CIRCLE OF ARAB STATES INVOLVED IN PEACE PROCESS AND PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL IN RETURN FOR POSITIVE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO TWO DEMANDS OF WITHDRAWAL AND RECOVERY OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAS BEEN COMPLETED NOW THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS JOINED IT. SECOND, KING KHALID HAS STIPULATED THAT BEFORE HE RECOGNIZES ISRAEL INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE MUST BE ESTABLISHED. THIS BYPASSES PRESENT FORMULATION OF EGYPTIAN STIPULATION, NAMELY, 'THAT LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS MUST BE RECOVERED'." GODLEY

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